

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please remove the paragraph on lines 18-24 of page 2 and replace it with the following paragraph:

At present, there is no satisfactory method of determining a transparent route of the above kind. One method was proposed to the IETF in Generalized MPLS – Signaling Function Description, chapters 3.4 and 3.5, Expiration date: November 2001, Network Working Group, Internet Draft, URL = <http://search.ietf.org/internet-drafts/draft-citf-mpls-generalized-signaling-07.txt>.

Please add the following line immediately above the current paragraph beginning on page 1, line 1, with “The invention relates to...:”

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

Please add the following line immediately above the current paragraph beginning on page 1, line 11, with “The invention relates to...:”

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please add the following line immediately above line 27 of page 3:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please add the following line immediately above line 36 of page 5:

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE DRAWINGS

Please add the following line immediately above line 27 of page 6:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 31 of page 7 with the following amended paragraph:

The output termination port ~~[[Om]]~~ OTPm is adapted to originate an electrical or optical signal towards a peer switching unit, such as a Gigabit Ethernet signal, and to encode outgoing data units in a format suitable for their transmission towards the peer switching unit.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 32 of page 12 with the following amended paragraph:

Upon completion of period t , t being an index ranging ~~from 0~~ from 0 onwards, the measurement means MEAS1 to MEASM determine the draining status of all the egress queues, thereby determining $DS_Eqm_CoSc_t$. During the same period, the bandwidth request means REQ1 to REQN measure the incoming traffic at every ingress queue, thereby determining $BWNnmc_t$.